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WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA (NORFOLK) URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - YEAR to 31st DECR.1944

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Mr.Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1944.

VITAL STATISTICS

There were 48 live births, 5 of which were illegitimate and 3 still births registered during the year. This gives a birth rate of 20.99, which is slightly below last years figure but compares favourably with the national rate of 17.6.

31 deaths from all causes were registered, giving a reduced crude death rate of 13.6 the figure for England and Wales being 11.6.

There was only one death of an infant under one year and that was due to prematurity and occurred within a few hours of birth. The infant mortality rate was 20.8 the same as last year, the national figure being 46.

There were no deaths from puerperal causes. 77% of all deaths occurred at ages over 65 and 42% of at over 75. The chief causes of death were again heart disease and cancer.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 2 new cases of tuberculosis notified and 2 deaths from this causes during the year. At the end of the year 13 cases remained on the register and 12 of these were of the pulmonary type. This is a decrease of 6 since the end of 1943.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were 2 cases of measles, 15 cases of whooping cough and 1 case of cerebro-spinal meningitis notified in 1944. There was no fatal case of infectious disease during the year.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASE

One case of scabies was brought to my notice during the year. A supply of benzyl benzoate lotion is still kept at the Council Office to be supplied for the domiciliary treatment of any cases that may occur.

No facilities exist in the Urban District for the cleansing of verminous persons and although infestation is not widespread, a few serious cases have been reported following the routine cleanliness surveys, carried out at the Wells Schools by the School Nurse. The schoolchildren only are inspected and instructions given to the parents about methods of cleansing. The residual infestation due to the failure of the other members of the household to obtain suitable treatment often makes the cleansing of the schoolchildren quite ineffective.

Lack of suitable staff and premises make it difficult for a small authority to set up cleansing stations. The only satisfactory solution would be for the facilities to be provided by the County Council under the Education Act 1944 to be made available to the County districts if and when required. It is only by such an arrangement that a small Urban District can carry out its obligations under the Scabies Order 1941 without unjustifiable expense.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME

During the year, 71 schoolchildren and 84 children under school age received a complete course of treatment. At the end of December it was estimated that the numbers treated in the two groups were:-

1 - 5 years.	5 - 15 years.
65%	96%

Again I should like to record my appreciation of the valuable help I have received from the Head teachers and the health visitor. Without their co-operation the figures could not be so satisfactory.

A regular treatment session is now held at the Primary School following the monthly minor ailment clinic on the 1st Tuesday in the month.

This has proved to be a very successful arrangement and is additional to the facilities provided by the local general practitioners under the Council's Scheme.

WATER SUPPLIES

The Urban District has had a main water supply since 1936. The present water scheme provides a piped supply for 595 out of a total number of 850 households. The remainder obtain water from shallow wells.

The water has been adequate in quantity in spite of a year of exceptional drought and very satisfactory in quality.

Regular check samples sent for Bacteriological examination have given excellent results and the last chemical analysis showed the water to be of high organic purity and in every way desirable for the purposes of a public supply.

All water is chlorinated before passing into the mains.

Certificate of Analysis of Water

14th March 1944.

Total Solids in Solution.	54.2.
Ammonia	
Free and saline.	Nil.
Albuminoid.	0.0007
Chlorine in Chlorides	14.7.
Nitrogen as Nitrates.	0.78.
Nitrites	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate	0.0031
Hardness	
Total.	24°
Permanent.	10.5°
Bacteriological Results.	
Colonies per ml. on agar at 37° C.	3.
Bacillus Coliform absent in	100 ml.
Physical Characters	Clear.

Remarks This water is of great organic and bacteriological purity, free from any sign of pollution, and quite suitable for drinking purposes. Its salinity is due to proximity to the coast solely.

(sd) W.Lincolne Sutton.

It is confidently anticipated that when the shortage of labour and materials becomes less acute, it will not be long before every household has an adequate piped supply. Applications except for a few exceptional cases have had of necessity to be held up during War years.

When the new Water schemes for the County have been fully worked out it will probably be found convenient and economic to link up the Wells water scheme with that of the neighbouring district.

CONCLUSION

The health of the district continues to be good. The birthrate is only slightly lower than last year, the infant mortality is the same and the crude death rate is much reduced.

Apart from a few cases of whooping cough there was very little infectious disease and less tuberculosis than last year.

Five years of War do not appear to have had a deleterious effect upon the general standard of health. Indeed, there are indications that the population in general and the children in particular are in better health than ever before. It is to be hoped that a speeding up of the housing programme will prevent further domestic overcrowding with its evil consequences of ill-health and infectious disease especially dangerous to the very young. For it would be a tragedy if bad housing were allowed to offset the good effect of our excellent war-time provision for the wise distribution of food.

Again, I should like to record my appreciation of the help I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the loyal co-operation of the Staff.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

IRENE B.M.GREEN.

Medical Officer of Health.

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VITAL STATISTICS

Population - 2287

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Legitimate.	43	21	22	)Birth rate per
Illegitimate.	5	2	3	)1000 estimated
Totals.	48	23	25	)resident population. 20.99.

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate.	3	-	-	
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	
Totals.	3	-	-	

DEATHS	31	17	14	)Crude death rate per 1000 estimated resident population. 13.6

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.

	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Legitimate.	1	1	-	)Infant mortality
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	)rate per 1000
Totals	1	1	-	)births. 20.8

TUBERCULOSIS

This table gives the number and type of cases in the area at the end of 1943.

Type of case.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Pulmonary.	8	4	12
Non-pulmonary	-	1	1
Totals.	8	5	13

	Total.	Male.	Female
Pulmonary deaths.	2	1	1
Non-pulmonary "	-	-	-
Total	2	1	1

New cases - 2

The causes of death given in this table are supplied by the Registrar General:-

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
Tuberculosis.	1	1
Influenza.	1	-
Cancer.	5	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage etc.	1	2
Heart Disease.	5	3
Other Circulatory Disease	-	-
Bronchitis.	1	1
Pneumonia	-	-
Other respitatory Disease	-	-
Appendicitis	-	-
Nephritis	-	2
Prematurity	1	-
Violence	1	-
All other causes	1	3
All causes.	17.	14.

Council Offices,
Wells.
7th August 1945.

To,
The Chairman and Members of the
Wells-next-the-Sea Urban District Council.

Mr.Chairman, Gentlemen,

I beg to submit you my report for the year ended 31st December 1944.

FOOD INSPECTION

There are two Ministry of Food slaughterhouses within the Urban area, where slaughtering is carried out for part of the Walsingham Rural District in addition to the Urban District.

During the year I visited the slaughterhouses 200 times and inspected the following carcases:-

Cattle	673
Sheep	1786
Pigs	172
Calves	149
Total inspected...	2780

The following are details of carcases and weights of meat condemned:-

CATTLE				
Tuberculosis				
Carcases.	26			15,050 lbs.
Parts of carcases:-				
Lungs	32	331 lbs		
Livers	33	339 "		
Heads & Tongues.	29	857 "		
Other parts.		1250 "	2,777 "	17,827lbs.
Other Diseases				
Carcases.	15		7,154 "	
Parts.			2,475 "	9,629 "
Injuries (including animals injured by enemy action)				2,552 "
Total weight of beef condemned.....				30,008 "
SHEEP				
Carcases.	12	672 lbs		
Parts.		32 "		
Total weight of mutton and lamb.....				705 "
PIGS				
Tuberculosis				
Carcases.	2	299 lbs		
Parts.		179 "	478lbs	
Other Diseases				
Carcases	2	174 "		
Parts.		70 "	244 "	
Total weight of Pork condemned.....				722 "
Total weight of fresh meat condemned....				31,435 lbs.

In addition the following was also condemned:-

Wet Fish.		1430 lbs
Oranges		423 "
Tins Milk	37.	37 "
Tins Fish	53	44 "
Tins Fruit	27	26 "
Cooked meats		103 "
Frozen Pork		145 "
		2208 lbs.

Total weight of foodstuffs condemned = 33,643 lbs.

MILK AND DAIRIES

There are three Milk Producers within the Urban Area and during the year 12 samples of milk were taken under the Norfolk County Council Scheme and submitted for examination.

WATERWORKS

As a result of the dry season the standing water level in the well fell from 78'6" to 81' below the floor level of the pumping station and though no actual shortage of water was noted, the pump was stopped during long pumping period when the water level fell to 90' to avoid any falls of chalk from the well.

SALVAGE

The salvage of paper was carried out by the local Girl Guides and the salvage of bones by the Scavengers. The salvage of tins was discontinued during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The collection of nightsoil and day refuse is carried out by the Council, four men and two horses being engaged on this work, nightsoil being disposed of to farmers for manural purposes and day refuse tipped at the Warham Road dump.

PORT

During the year very few mussels were sold for human consumption almost all the mussels being required for bait purposes.

Yours obediently,

F.RODWELL.

Sanitary Inspector.